

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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P R 062330Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0396

INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MX

SUBJECT: LOPEZ PORTILLO- FIRST FORMAL ADDRESS AS CANDIDATE

REF: MEXICO 8722

1. SUMMARY. LOPEZ' FIRST MAJOR ADDRESS WAS A MODERATELY PHRASED REAFFIR-

MATION OF MEXICAN POLITICAL GOALS OF LIBERTY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. SPEECH

SEEMED DESIGNED TO COOL DIVISIVE PASSIONS AND IN ITS MODERATION TO
PROVIDE VEHICLE FOR UNITY WITHIN PARTY. CLUES TO FUTURE POLICY MAY
HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN EMPHASIS ON PLANNING, AN "ALLIANCE FOR PRO-
DUCTION" (IMPLICITLY WITH PRIVATE SECTOR) AND SELF-RELIANCE.
ECHEVERRIA FOREIGN POLICY WAS ENDORSED BUT NOT HIGHLIGHTED. END
SUMMARY.

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2. JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO'S FORMAL SWEARING IN AS PRI CANDIDATE ON OCT 5 WAS OCCASION FOR HIS FIRST COMPREHENSIVE SPEECH. AS INDICATED REFTEL, HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS SINCE BEING DESIGNATED AS CANDIDATE SEPT 22 HAVE BEEN PIECEMEAL AND REACTIVE. NONETHELESS, THEY APPEARED TO SHOW AN EFFORT TO SEEK OUT THE POLITICAL CENTER WHILE AVOIDING PREMATURE SUBSANTIVE DECLARATIONS. (PERHAPS LOPEZ HIMSELF NEEDED TIME TO SORT OUT HIS THOUGHTS. THAT'S POINT OF LATEST POLITICAL JOKE-JLP STANDS FOR "JAMAS LO PENSE").

3. LOPEZ' SPEECH WAS RELATIVELY SHORT AND ELEVATED IN THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION. ABSENT WERE ANY RADICAL CALLS FOR REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE AND EXTREME CONDEMNATIONS OF "REACTIONARY FORCES." LOPEZ SEEMED TO SEEK (AND TO ACHIEVE) A CONGRUITY BETWEEN STYLE AND SUBSTANCE BEST SUMMARIZED AS MODERATION. LOPEZ REAFFIRMED IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES FIRST GRANTED IN LIBERAL CONSTITUTION OF 1857. 1917 CONSTITUTION HAS RETAINED THESE, HE SAID, INFUSING THEM WITH GOAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE.

4. LOPEZ "ACCEPTED" PRI'S 300 PAGE "PLAN BASICO" BUT IN SAME BREATH INDICATED THE PARTY DOCUMENT WOULD BE BASIS FOR HIS " PLAN OF GOVERNMENT". ONLY RICH COUNTRIES COULD AFFORD LUXURY OF NOT PLANNING HOW RESOURCES WOULD BE UTILIZED. IN CASE OF MEXICO THEIR SCARCITY DEMANDED RIGOROUS AND CAREFUL PROGRAMMING. LOPEZ SAID HE BELIEVED IN THE DISCIPLINE IMPLICITLY REQUIRED BY ASSIGNING DEVELOPMENTAL PRIORITIES-NOT EVERYTHING COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AT ONCE.

5. LOPEZ SAID MEXICAN DEVELOPMENT DEPENDED "FUNDAMETALLY" ON ITS OWN EFFORTS. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE SELF-DECEIVING NOT TO RECOGNIZE THE RESTRICTIONS (ON DEVELOPMENT) IMPOSED BY UNJUST WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER-HENCE MEXICAN PUSH FOR A NEW ONE BASED ON CERDS-LOPEZ SAID ROAD (TO A NEW ORDER) WOULD BE LONG AND DIFFCULT, IMPLYING THAT MEXICO SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR CERDS TO SOLVE ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. BUT LOPEZ DID SAY MEXICO WOULD FIGHT TO OBTAIN PRICES FOR HER EXPORTS "IN CONCORDANCE WITH THE PRICES OF CAPITAL GOODS".

6. LOPEZ SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE AN "ALLIANCE FOR PRODUCTION" TO GIVE PRIORITY TO AREAS OF GREATEST DEFICIENCY-FOOD, CLOTHING, AND HOUSING. WHILE ASSIGNING THESE PRIORITIES, LOPEZ SAID A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WOULD DEFINE CAREFULLY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATE, DOMESTIC PRIVATE SECTOR, AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT; MEXICO'S LONG EXPERIENCE WITH A MIXED ECONOMY WOULD BE THE GUIDE.

7. REMAINDER OF SPEECH CONSISTED OF SECTIONS SEPCIFICALLY ADDRESSED IN TURN TO EACH SECTOR OF PARTY PLUS ONE FOR MEXICAN ARMY; THESE ACCENTUATED POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EACH GROUP AND IF THE PURPOSE-DRAWING THE PARTY BACK TOGETHER-WAS OBVIOUS, IT NONETHELESS WAS SKILLFULLY DONE.

8. COMMENT: SINCE MEXICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ARE ESSENTIALLY NON-COMPETITIVE (EXCEPT IN SEVERAL URBAN AREAS WHERE THE OPPOSITION PAN HAS GROWING STRENGTH), THE VIGOR WITH WHICH PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TRADITIONALLY HAVE CAMPAIGNED IS USUALLY STRIKING TO THE OUTSIDE OBSERVER. BUT THEY SERVE A PURPOSE OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE-TO BUILD PUBLIC IMAGE FOR THE MAN WHO WILL RULE THE COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT SIX YEARS. LOPEZ PORTILLO IS LESS KNOWN TO MEXICAN PUBLIC THAN HIS TWO PREDECESSORS AND SO BEGINS THE CAMPAIGN WITH A LARGER TASK. WE JUDGE HE HAS MADE A GOOD START.
JOVA

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